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P R 041240Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9607

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 3931

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT -- MARCH 4, 1975

GENERAL

1. A SIX-PERSON U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITED PHNOM PENH FOR EIGHT HOURS TO LOOK INTO CAMBODIA'S NEED FOR MORE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID. THE DELEGATION GAVE PUBLICITY TO LON NOL'S WILLINGNESS TO RESIGN IF DOING SO WOULD HELP RESTORE PEACE. STUDENTS SPARKED SMALL-SCALE ANTI-CHINESE OUTBREAKS, WHICH COMBINED WITH ROCKET FIRE INTO THE CENTER OF TOWN TO CLOSE CHINESE SHOPS. PRESIDENT FOR ASKED THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE FOR EARLEY AND FAVORABLE ACTION ON HIS REQUEST FOR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA, LEST IF FALL WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. THE DC-8'S USED TO AUGMENT THE AMMUNITION AIRLIFT SHIFTED TO RICE FEBRUARY 27; C-130S WILL NOW BE BRINGING IN CIVILIAN POL AS WELL. THE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZED AID TO BEGIN A PL-480 TITLE II RICE PROGRAM WHICH WILL ENABLE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO EXPAND REFUGEE FEEDING AND ALSO SUPPLEMENT THE DIET OF PHNOM PENH'S POOR. THE GKR'S MILITARY POSITION CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE ON THE LOWER MEKONG AS THE KC DROVE A WEDGE BETWEEN NEAK LOEUNG AND BANAM, (FANK REOPENED ACCESS TO BANAM MARCH 4 AT LATEST WORD) OVERRAN A BATTALION-SIZED POST EAST OF NEAK LOEUNG, AND CRUSHED THE REMAINING DEFENDERS
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OF A BATTALION-SIZED POST ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG SOUTH OF NEAK LOEUNG. FANK ALSO PULLED BACK FROM THE ROYAL CAPITAL AT OUDONG, WHICH HAD CHANGED HANDS TWICE IN 1974. SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL GKR FORCES PUSHED THROUGH STRONG KC RESISTANCE TO LINK UP WITH TWO ENCIRCLED POSITIONS, AND FANK FORCES NORTHWEST OF THE AIRPORT EXCAPED DISASTER WHEN THE KC FAILED TO FOLLOW-UP A BREAK-THROUGH AT TUOL LEAP, ENAMBLING THEM TO REFORM AND REGAIN

NEARLY ALL THE GROUND THEY HAD LOST.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. FIVE CONGRESSMEN AND A SENATOR SPENT EIGHT HOURS IN PHNOM PENH MARCH 1 LOOKING INTO CAMBODIA'S NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THEY MET WITH LON NOL, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND SENIOR MILITARY, REFUGEES, RALLIERS AND STUDENT/TEACHER LEADERS AND MADE FIELD VISITS TO MILITARY UNITS, HOSPITALS AND RELIEF AGENCY PROJECTS.

3. SENATOR BARTLETT TOLD THE PRESS OF LON NOL'S WILLINGNESS TO RESIGN IF DOING SO WOULD REMOVE THE OBSTACLE TO PEACE. A VERNACULAR DAILY HAS PICKED UP FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS OF THE REPORTED REMARK AND CONGRATULATED THE MARSHAL ON THE "RENEWED EVIDENCE OF HIS PATRIOTIC SPIRIT." COMMENT: THE MARSHAL HAS PUBLICLY MADE THIS POINT ONLY BY IMPLICATION IN THE PAST. WHILE NOT COMING DIRECTLY FROM CHAMCAR MON, THIS IS THE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORT OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO RESIGN TO MAKE THE LOCAL (AND INTERNATIONAL) PRESS.

4. ANTI-CHINESE STUDENT RIOTS IN BATTAMBANG (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT) ENDED, BUT PHNOM PENH STUDENTS JOINED IN SMALL-SCALE ATTACKS AGAINST CHINESE SHOPS IN CENTRAL PHNOM PENH AND BEAT-UP CHINESE-APPEARING PASSERS-BY. CHINESE SHOPS THROUGHOUT CENTRAL PHNOM PENH CLOSED. BOTH LON NOL AND THE CITY GOVERNMENT PUT OUT STATEMENTS CALLING FOR ORDER. THE CITY GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMED THAT KHMER BUDDHISTS DO NOT PRACTICE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND ASCRIBED THE RIOTING TO ACTIONS BY ENEMY AGENTS.

5. DETERIORATING SECURITY IN AGRICULTURALLY VITAL BATTAMBANG PROVINCE HAS CAUSED THE GKR TO RELIEVE MR-III
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COMBADER MAJOR GENERAL SAR HOR. MAJOR GENERAL SEK SAM IET, WHOM HOR REPLACED IN LATE 1974, IS TO RESUME COMMAND MARCH 4. COMMENT: SAR HOR, DESPITE HIS REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY AND HIS GOOD PERFORMANCE AT THE KOMPONG CHAM ENCLAVE WAS UNABLE TO COPE WITH BATTAMBANG'S MILITARY PROBLEMS, WHICH DEMAND PROTECTION OF A LARGE AGRICULTURAL AREA AT A TIME WHEN ALL HIS INTERVENTION TROOPS HAVE BEEN SENT TO PHNOM PENH. HE WAS ALSO INEPT AT HANDLING STUDENTS AND CHINESE MERCHANTS. THE LATTER HAD BUILT STRONG TIES TO SEK SAM IET.

6. THE FRENCH HAVE POSTPONED THE SCHEDULED REOPENING OF THEIR LYCEE DESCARTES FROM MARCH 3. THIS HAS CAUSED A NUMBER OF FRENCH WIVES WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN TO LEAVE CAMBODIA.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. PRESIDENT FORD WROTE TO HOUSE SPEAKER CARL ALBERT THAT "AN INDEPENDENT CAMBODIA CANNOT SURVIVE UNLESS THE CONGRESS ACTS VERY SOON TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE....GOVERNMENT FORCES WILL BE FORCED, WITHIN WEEKS, TO SURRENDER TO THE INSURGENTS." HE ALSO NOTED THE NEED FOR RICE TO FEED REFUGEES. THE PRESIDENT POSED THE MORAL QUESTION WHETHER THE U.S. CAN "DELIBERATELY ABANDON A SMALL COUNTRY IN THE MIDST OF ITS LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE?"

8. UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S SPOKESMAN HAS NOTED THAT THE SYG IS CONSIDERING WHAT STEPS HE CAN NOW TAKE UNDER THE MANDATE PROVIDED BY THE UN RESOLUTION ON CAMBODIA. HE ADDED THAT WALDHEIM IS CONCERNED BY THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND PHNOM PENH.

GRUNK/FUNK

IT WAS A WEEK IN WHICH SIHANOUK DELUGED THE WORLD WITH A VARIETY OF STATEMENTS:

9. IN A STATEMENT AFP REPORTED FROM PEKING FEBRUARY 26, SIHANOUK CONDEMNED EFFORTS TO GET ADDITIONAL AID FOR THE GKR, ASSERTING THAT EVEN EXTRA AID CANNOT PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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VENT A COMPLETE DEFEAT. HE OBSERVED THAT GKR INCOMPETENCE

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AND CORRUPTION HAS EXHAUSTED U.S. AID TOO RAPIDLY. HE PROFESSED HIS DEVOTION TO THE DOMINO THEORY, NOTING THAT THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS AFTER ITS DEFEAT IN CAMBODIA AND WILL THEN "NO DOUBT LOSE THAILAND, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES."

10. SIHANOUK ALSO WROTE A LETTER TO FOUR LEADING U.S. SENATORS IN WHICH HE URGED THEM TO OPPOSE FURTHER AID TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT, ALLEGING THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE TO SAVE THAT REGIME.

11. THE PRINCE TOLD AFP FEBRUARY 27 THAT CHOU-EN-LAI, WITH WHOM HE MET THREE DAYS EARLIER, EXPECTS A KHMER ROUGE VICTORY IN CAMBODIA SOON, AND ADDED THAT CHOU SAID HE HAS TOLD SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ABANDON THE GKR IN ORDER TO SAVE U.S. HONOR. SIHANOUK ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS RESISTED KHMER ROUGE INSISTENCE THAT HE STAY ON AS HEAD OF GRUNK FOR LIFE. HE ELABORATED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT A JOB AS REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA ABROAD BUT DOES NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGAIN. HE NOTED IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE INSURGENTS ADDING THAT HE PREFERRED TO END HIS CAREER "RATHER THAN RISK TO HAVE THE RED KHMERS PUT ME ON TRIAL AND MAKE ME A TRAITOR..." AS LON NOL HAD DONE. SIHANOUK REITERATED THE POSITION HE STATED IN LETTERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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NEWSDAY AND THE NEW YORK TIMES BY REAFFIRMING THAT HIS FORCES AND THE U.S. CAN BE RECONCILED IF THE U.S. ABANDONS THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. THE PRINCE ADDED THAT WHILE IN HANOI FOR TET, HE AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AGREED ON INCREASED OVERLAND DELIVERIES OF CHINESE ARMS AND AMMO TO CAMBODIA THROUGH NORTH VIETNAM AS A RESPONSE TO AN AMERICAN AIRLIFT TO PHNOM PENH.

12. SIHANOUK TOOK TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS TO TELL AFT THAT HE HAS ASSURANCES THAT NEITHER THE KHMER ROUGE NOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JOURNALISTS MISSING IN CAMBODIA. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE HE CAN DO AND HE HOPES TO RECEIVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THE MATTER. COMMENT: THE PRINCE WAS REACTING TO RECENT INCREASED PUBLICITY WHICH A JOURNALISTS' GROUP HEADED BY WALTER CRONKITE SPARKED ON BEHALF OF THE MISSING NEWSMEN.

13. IN-COUNTRY LEADER IENG SARY HEADED FOR CHINA FEBRUARY 28 AFTER STAYING IN NORTH VIETNAM SINCE TET. CHINESE VICE-PREMIER CHI TENG-KUEI DINED HIM MARCH 1 AND PROMISED "POWERFUL BACKING" FOR THE KHMER PEOPLE. THE

NEXT DAY IENG SARY LED A DELEGATION OF GRUNK LUMINARIES IN TALKS WITH CHI TENG-KUEI AND CHINESE TRADE, MILITARY LOGISTICS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS OFFICIALS. SARY THEN SAT IN ON SIHANOUK'S AFTERNOON RECEPTION OF THE CONGOLESE PRIME MINISTER MARCH 2.

COMMENT: THE LIST OF CHINESE OFFICIALS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO SHOW HEIGHTENED POSSIBILITIES FOR CHINESE AID. IENG SARY'S PRESENT TRIP MAY PRESAGE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN AID AGREEMENT THAT MAY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED DURING NOVEMBER, 1974, WHEN HE LED A GRUNK/FUNK ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO HANOI AND PEKING.

14. PHAM VAN DONG TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A VISIT BY THE GRUNK AMBASSADOR, WHO GAVE HIM A COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SECOND CAMBODIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (SEE BELOW), TO REASSERT DRV MILITANT SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH CAMBODIA. AFP REPORTED FROM HANOI THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IMPLICITLY CONFIRMED SIHANOUK'S EARLIER COMMENTS THA THE DRV AGREED TO SPEED-UP
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TRANSIT OF ARMS TO THE KHMER ROUGE. COMMENT: THE DRV, LIKE THE CHINESE, APPARENTLY WANT TO BE ON RECORD AS DOING THEIR UTMOST FOR THEIR KHMER COMMUNIST ALLY AT A TIME WHEN THE U.S. HAS BEGUN TO AIRLIFT SUPPLIES TO THE GKR.

15. IN-COUNTRY CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTS THAT ON FEBRUARY 24-25 KHIEU SAMPHAN CHAIRED THE SECOND CAMBODIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN "LIBERATED" TERRITORY (TH FIRST TOOK PLACE JULY 19-21, 1973). THE GRUNK IN-COUNTRY CABINET ATTENDED, AS DID 273 REPRESENTATIVES OF FRONT "ASSOCIATIONS" AND THE ARMY. THEY DECLARED THAT "IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO KILL..." THE SEVEN "TRAITORS" LON NOL, SIRIK MATAK, SON NGOC THANH, CHENG HENG, IN TAM, LONG BORET AND SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ. OTHER POLITICIANS AND HIGH PERSONALITIES, HOWEVER, MAY JOIN FUNK IF THEY STOP COOPERATING WITH THE SEVEN NOW. THEY REITERATED THAT THE U.S. MUST END ITS ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA AND NOTED THAT THEY HAVE NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD THE U.S. AFTER THE USUAL APPEALS FOR UPRISINGS OR FLIGHT TO THEIR ZONES THE CONGRESS NOTED THAT THEY ENDED THE USE OF GKR RIEL CURRENCY IN MID-FEBRUARY AND WILL CONTINUE THE ON-GOING BARTER ECONOMY WHILE GRADUALLY INTRODUCING A GRUK/FUNK CURRENCY. COMMENT: PRINTING A CURRECNY WOULD GIVE THE GRUNK MORE TRAPPINS OF A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND IS DOUBTLESS INTENDED TO SHOW FOREIGN OBSERVERS THAT THEIR CONTROL IS INCREASING AND THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY EXPANDING.

ECONOMIC

16. AID HAS NO BEEN AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN
A TITLE II RICE PROGRAM. UP TO 20,000 METRIC TONS OF
TITLE I RICE STORED IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO
TITLE II FOR IMMEDIATE USE. THIS WILL ENABLE THE VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES AND THE RED CROSS TO GREATLY INCREASE THEIR
FEEDING PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES AND OTHER NEEDY PEOPLE. UP
TO 150 TONS A DAY OF RICE CURRENTLY BEING AIR-WDFTED WILL
BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE VOLAGS, WHICH HAD HERETOFORE BEEN
BUYING, WITH COUNTERPART FUNDING, ABOUT 20 TONS A
DAY UNDER TITLE I.

17. ON MARCH 2 RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALED 8,693 METRIC
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TONS OR A 16-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION RATE
OF 545 M/T PER DAY. WHILE NO RICE ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH VIA
THE MEKONG OR FROM LOCAL HARVESTS, THE AIR-LIFT FROM SAIGON
BEGAN FEBRUARY 27 AND DELIVERED 1,694 M/T IN THE INITIAL 4 DAYS.
THE OPERATION IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY WITH THE NUMBER OF
FLIGHTS INCREASING FROM 7 ON FEBRUARY 28 TO 14 ON MARCH 3.

18. CRS AND GKR REFUGEE TEAMS HAVE NOT YET RETURNED TO
NEAK LUONG. RICE AND OTHER FOOD CONTINUES TO BE DISTRIBUTED
TO REFUGEES BY THE LOCAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

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19. RICE AND FISH PRICES ROSE ABOUT 7 PERCENT DURING
THE PAST WEEK TO LEAD AN OVERALL PRICE INCREASE OF ABOUT
3 PERCENT. BLACK MARKET PRICES OF U.S. RICE ROSE 5 PERCENT
AND BATTAMBANG RICE 9 PERCENT. OTHER NCREASES WERE

FRESH WATER FISH 13 PERCENT, AND OCEAN FISH 9 PERCENT. DRIED FISH REMAINED STEADY. AVERAGE GROUP PRICES FOR MEAT, OULTRY AND VEGETABLES REMAINED STEADY WHILE FRUITS ROSE ALMOST 3 PERCENT AND LOCAL PRODUCTS ROSE ABOUT 2 1/2 PERCENT. NON FOOD PRICE LEADERS WERE SUGAR UP 16 PERCENT, RUBBER SLIPPERS 11 PERCENT AND CIGARETTES 10 PERCENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRICES OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT ITEMS SUCH AS MILK, SOAP, COTTON AND KEROSENE REMAINED STEADY, AND CHARCOAL DROPPED 8 PERCENT TO REVERSE THE RAPID RISE OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE REMAINED AT 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR DURING THE WEEK, BUT THE BLACK MARKET RATE CONTINUED TO INCREASE FROM 1,920 TO 2,000 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE PRICE OF GOLD DROPPED 5 PERCENT FROM 173 TO 165 DOLLARS PER TROY OUNCE.

MILITARY

20. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF RELATIVE INACTIVITY THE KC TOOK THE INITIATIVE AGAIN ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH. THEY TOOK KEY POSITIONS AT TA CHOU AND PREK LUONG. AT TA CHOU, AN INTERVENTION
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BATTALION SIMPLY ABANDONED ITS POSTS. PREK LUONG, HELD BY A MIX OF INTERVENTION AND TERRITORIAL FORCES, WAS PENETRATED AND OVERWHELMED AFTER A DAY OF HARD FIGHTING. THE PARATROOP BRIGADE POSITIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FALLEN POSTS WENT UNCHALLENGED. BRIDGES 9 AND 10 ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG, NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, FINALLY FELL AFTER A TWO-MONTH SIEGE. KC FIRE HAD SUCCEEDED IN CUTTING OFF EFFECTIVE NAVAL RESUPPLY OF THE POSITIONS. COMMENT: THE FALL OF PREK LUONG HAS GIVEN KC GUNNERS BETTER ROCKET COVERAGE OF DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH, AND PUT THEM IN MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE RANGE OF THE NAVAL BASE ON THE PENINSULA JUST EAST OF THE CAPITAL.

21. IN THE SOUTHWEST DEFENSE SECTOR, THE KC STRONGLY RESISTED FANK EFFORTS TO RELIEVE THE TWO BATTALIONS OF THE THIRD DIVISION WHICH THEY HAD ENCIRCLED, BUT FANK FINALLY RELIEVED ONE POST, INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE KC AND TAKING MODERATE LOSSES THEMSELVES. RELIEF OF THE OTHER POSITION WAS SUSPENDED BY KC ATTACK NEAR TUOL LEAP NORTH OF ROUTE 4 WHICH BROKE THROUGH THE 23RD BRIGADE'S POSITIONS AND FORCED FANK TO REDEPLOY FORCES FROM ALL OVER THE PHNOM PENH SPECIAL MILITARY REGION TO COUNTER THREAT OF A FOLLOW-UP PUSH ON POCHENTONG AIRPORT. THE KC FAILED TO EXPLOIT THEIR GAINS, AND FANK RETOOK MOST OF THE LOST GROUND. BY THE WEEKEND THE FOCUS HAD AGAIN SHIFTED TO RELIEF OF THE ISOLATED BATTALION, AND ARMOR-REINFORCED ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST, 2ND AND

3RD DIVISIONS FORMED THREE COLUMNS TO ATTACK KC ELEMENTS SURROUNDING THE POST, LINKING-UP MARCH 4. UNFORTUNATELY, THE AGGRESSIVE THIRD DIVISION COMMANDING GENERAL TOOK A BULLET THROUGH THE SHOULDER FEBRUARY 28 WHILE DIRECTING OPERATIONS, AND WILL PROBABLY BE OUT OF ACTION FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

22. KC PRESSURE CONTINUED UNABATED IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. THE THREE-BATTALION TAKEO TASK FORCE ATTEMPTING TO PUSH DOWN ROUTE 1 SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL MOVED AHEAD SLOWLY, REDUCING ENEMY STRONG-POINTS, BUT CAME TO A HALT WHEN TUOL LEAP SITUATION REQUIRED USE OF THEIR SUPPORTING ARMOR AND BACK-UP FORCES.

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23. BETWEEN FEBRUARY 25 AND MARCH3, 47 ROCKETS EXPLODED IN PHNOM PENH CITY PROPER KILLING 19 PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 29. ONE-HUNDRED AND NINETEEN ADDITIONAL ROUNDS LNDDED IN THEPOCHENTONG AREA, ALTHOUGH FEW REACHED THE AIRPORT. THE ROUNDS KILLED 9 AND INJURED 61. INCOMING ROUNDS AT BOTH LOCATIONS HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE THE LAST COUNT (KHMER REPORT OF FEBRUAY 18).

24. ON THE LOWER MEKONG SEVERE SETBACKS OCCURRED WHEN THE BATTALION-SIZED POST OF STOENG SLOT, EAST OF NEAK LOEUNG FELL WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THE KC ALSO CUT ROUTE 15 BETWEEN BANAM AND NEAK LOEUNG, DESTROYING THE COHERENCE OF THE BANAM-NEAK LOEUNG DEFENSE AND SERIOUSLY THREATENING BOTH POSITIONS. FANK FORCES REPORTEDLY REOPENED THE HIGHWAY ON 4 MARCH. PREK DACH, A GARRISON ON THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG SOUTH OF NEAK LOEUNG, FELL FEBRUARY 25, LEAVING ONLY THE FIVE-BATTALION POST NORTH OF PEAM REANG ISLAND AS FANK'S PRESENCE ON THE LOWER REACHES OF THE VITAL RIPOR. FANK OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE ISLAND BETWEEN NEAK LOEUNG AND BANAM TVE SLOWLY PUSHED AHEAD. EARLY MORNING NAVAL CONVOYS HAVE TAKEN RICE, AMMO AND FUEL FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LOEUNG WITH LITTLE DAMAGE.

25. THE KC FORCED THE FANK GARRISON AT THE FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL AT OUDONG TO WITHDRAW FEBRUARY 25. THE LEVELED PLACE HAD NO MILITARY, BUT SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE. THE GARRISON RETREATED NORTH TO LOVEK IN GOOD ORJPS WITH SMALL LOSS OF MEN OR EQUIPMENT. LOVEK CAME UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE AS THE KC SOUGHT TO FOLLOW-UP THEIR SUCCESS AT OUDONG.

26. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ISSUED HIS 10TH

ORDER OF THE DAY MARCH 3, IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT THE KC HAS ATTACKED FOR 61 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, AND ALTHOUGH FANK "CANNOT SAY THAT WE HAVE WON FINAL, PERMANENT VICORY," HE SAID THE KC HAS NOT ACHIEVED "ANY OF HIS GOALS," AT PHNOM PENH OR POCHENTONG. FERNANDEZ THANKED AND PRAISED ALL BRANCHES OF FANK. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE MEKONG RIVER BY URGING OFFICERS, NONCOMS AND MEN OF THE THREE
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SERVICES TO REOPEN THIS VITAL WATERWAY AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE MEKONG FORCES WOULD DO AS WELL AS THE PHNOM PENH/POCHENTONG DEFENDERS HAVE. HE APPEALED TO COMBATANTS AND CITIZENS TO KEEP FAITH IN FANK'S ABILITY TO DEFEND THEM, AND URGED CALM WHILE PROMISING THAT HE AND HIS STAFF WOULD FIGHT UNTIL VICTORY.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KHMER REPORT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM03931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750075-0428
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750384/aaaacxxg.tel
Line Count: 621
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT -- MARCH 4, 1975 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006